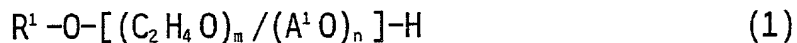


# ABSTRACT

A digestion assistant for a lignocellulose material, which comprises a nonionic surfactant (A) comprising one or more compounds represented by the general formula (1):



wherein  $R^1$  is a branched alkyl group containing 4-24 carbon atoms;  $m$  is an integer of at least 1, having an average of 4-20;  $A^1$  is an alkylene group containing 3 or 4 carbon atoms; and  $n$  is 0 or an integer of at least 1, having an average of 0-15; wherein  $(C_2H_4O)$  and  $(A^1O)$ , in case of the average of  $n$  being 1-15, are linked random-wise and/or block-wise.